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This is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/992,316, filed December 17, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,332,893 B1, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 31-44 and 80-82, without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 18, 45, 58, and 70, as follows:

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18. (Amended) A method of treating an in situ heart valve, the method comprising:

providing a first elongate member having a first end and a second end and an anchor assembly at each of the first and second ends;

anchoring the anchor assembly at the first end proximate the in situ heart valve such that at least a portion of the first elongate member between the first end and the second end extends within a chamber of the heart; and

anchoring the anchor assembly at the second end to a portion of the heart spaced from the anchor assembly at the first end,

wherein anchoring the first and second ends of the first elongate member draws together leaflets of the in situ valve.

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45. (Amended) A method for treating an in situ heart valve, comprising:
altering a geometry of a heart chamber at least during systole so as to at least one of

alter at least a portion of an annulus of the in situ valve;

alter a position of at least one papillary muscle associated with the in situ valve; and

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F3
draw together leaflets of the in situ valve.

58. (Amended) A method of treating an in situ heart valve, the method comprising:

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positioning a device with respect to a heart such that, at least during systole, a portion of the device contacts and alters a geometry of structure other than structure of the in situ heart valve so as to at least one of

alter at least a portion of an annulus of the in situ valve;

alter a position of at least one papillary muscle associated with the in situ valve; and

draw together leaflets of the in situ valve.

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70. (Amended) A method for improving cardiac function, comprising:
placing a first member relative to a heart chamber to alter the cross-sectional shape of the chamber; and
placing a second member relative to an in situ valve of the heart chamber to assist in apposition of leaflets of the in situ valve.

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during the personal interview conducted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on April 24, 2003. In accordance with the provisions

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